II

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1969

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY
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RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Port Medical Officer of Health

for YEAR 1969

Waterloo House,
Waterloo Road,
BLYTH.

January, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the
River Blyth Port Health Authority.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again it is my privilege to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Port Health Administration for the Port of Blyth, for the year 1969.

As in preceding years this report is presented in accordance with the instruction issued by the Minister of Health - Form Port 20, and Circular 33/52. Detailed information will be found in the Sections I to XVI.

The total number of vessels which arrived during the year was 1,358 including Fishing Vessels. This is slightly below last year's figure. Foreign Vessels, trading Foreign and Coastwise, numbered 231 including Fishing Vessels which is an increase on last year. There has been a considerable increase in the number of arrivals direct from Foreign Ports more than double that of the figure for the previous three years.

The amount of Coal and Coke shipped from the Port during the year was 2,380,471 tons; this also includes Bunker Coal.

There has been an increase in the amount and variety of imports and exports particularly to and from Foreign Ports.

Imports discharged at the Port were: Timber 23,272 loads, Iron 4,287 tons, Steel Bars 2,693 tons, Sand 3,320 tons, Machinery 968 tons, Paper 17,042 tons, Fish Meal 2,354 tons, Potatoes 2,663 tons, Fertiliser 940 tons, Barley 520 tons and Sundries 3,573 tons.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1966

The above Regulations became operative from the 1st April, 1966, and deal with the Infectious Diseases, now to be known as Quarantinable Diseases, sanitary control of ships and persons, Deratting Certificates etc. Certificates issued will be found in the appropriate tables.

INSPECTION OF VESSELS

The work dealing with nuisances and defects (structural and otherwise) will be found in the appropriate tables included in the report.

I again record with pleasure the kind assistance received from time to time from the Blyth Harbour Commission, River Pilots, H.M. Customs Officers, Immigration Officer, also the Ministry of Transport Surveyors for their help and co-operation with the staff of the Port Health Authority.

R.J.P.R. CAMPBELL, M.B., Ch.B.,
Medical Officer of Health.

RIVER BLYTH PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

MEMBERS OF AUTHORITY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

Chairman: Councillor J. Haig

Vice Chairman: Alderman J. Hudspith

Alderman E. Breadin

Alderman Mrs. M. Purves

Alderman A. Rutherford, J.P.

Alderman Mrs. L. M. Summers

Councillor G. Colpitts

Councillor A. R. Hancock

Councillor M. A. McGuckin

Councillor J. Mounsey

Councillor J. E. Teasdale

Councillor Mrs. M. E. Thompson

SECTION I - STAFF

Table A

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any other Appointment held
Miss L. Owen	Clerk to the Authority	11th Sept. 1960	A.C.I.S.	Town Clerk's Staff Borough of Blyth
Dr. R.J.P.R. Campbell	Medical Officer of Health	1st October, 1949	M.B.,Ch.B.	General Practice
Dr. R. Craig	Deputy Medical Officer of Health	1st April, 1957	M.B.,Ch.B.	General Practice
Mr. Norman F. Godfrey	Public Health Inspector	1st February, 1957	Public Health Inspectors' Certificate R.S.I. Meat and Food Cert. R.S.I.	None
Mr. Robert H. Cramp	Rodent Officer	11th January, 1952		None
Miss M. Walker	Office Clerk	1st March, 1965		None

Dr. R. J. P. R. Campbell's address:- Waterloo House, Waterloo Road, Blyth, Northumberland.

Telephone No. BLYTH 3226.

SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District during the year

Table B

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of Ships reported as having or having had during the voyage Infectious Diseases on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Public Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	138	98,366	31	138	-
Coastwise Ports	1,112	940,862	34	1,112	-
TOTALS ..	1,250	1,039,228	65	1,250	-

FISHING VESSELS -

	No.	Tonnage
Foreign	34	3,163
Coastwise	74	2,845

CREWS

Foreign	Coastwise	Fishing	Total
1,785	14,690	694	17,159

SECTION III

Character of Shipping and Trade during the year 1969

Table C

		British	Alien	Commonwealth
Passenger Traffic	(Number of Passengers INWARDS	16	61	Nil
	(Number of Passengers OUTWARDS	8	54	Nil
	(Passengers on Temporary Shore Leave	Nil	Nil	Nil

There is no regular passenger traffic at this Port (see table for Aliens).

Cargo Traffic	Principal Imports	Timber	23,272	loads
		Steel Bars etc. ..	2,693	tons
		Machinery	968	"
		Pig Iron	4,287	"
		Paper	17,042	"
		Sand	3,320	"
		Potatoes	2,663	"
		Fertiliser	940	"
		Fish Meal	2,354	"
		Barley	520	"
		Sundries	3,573	"
	Principal Exports	Coal & Coke	2,380,471	"
		Barley	1,375	"
		Graphite	2,167	"
		Scrap Iron	4,216	"
		Sundries	5,966	"

Fish landed was valued at £62,097.

Principal Ports from which Ships arrive:-

FOREIGN PORTS -

BELGIUM .. Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent.
CYPRUS .. Famagusta.

FOREIGN PORTS (Contd.)

DENMARK	..	Aarhus, Copenhagen.
FAEROES	..	Runavik, Thorshavn.
FINLAND	..	Hamina, Helsingfors, Kemi, Kotka, Turku.
FRANCE	..	Dieppe, Rouen.
GERMANY	..	Bremen, Duisberg, Emden, Gluckstadt, Hamburg, Haren-Ems, Keil, Lubeck, Rendsburg, Stade.
GREECE	..	Piraeus.
HOLLAND	..	Amsterdam, Doredrecht, Groningen, Leeuwarden, Rotterdam, Scheveningen, Sluiskil, Vlardingen.
ICELAND	..	Reyjavik.
ITALY	..	Civitavecchia.
NORWAY	..	Aalborg, Bergen, Esbjerg, Haugesund, Mo-i-Rana, Oslo, Sandnes, Sirevag, Stavanger, Uddevalla.
PANAMA	..	Panama.
POLAND	..	Gdansk, Wladyslawawa.
SPAIN	..	Passajes.
SWEDEN	..	Gefle, Goteborg, Gruvon, Karlskrona, Karlstad, Kristinstad, Lisekil, Oskarshamn, Stockholm, Vargon.
U.S.A.	..	Orange, Tampa.
U.S.S.R.	..	Leningrad.

SECTION IV

Inland Barge Traffic

There is no barge traffic at the Port.

SECTION V

Water Supply

Samples have been taken regularly from points on the West Staithes, North and South Sides, South Harbour and B.H.C. Waterboat. Of the 65 samples taken from the Port, 1 after bacteriological examination was found to be unsatisfactory.

In all cases where unsatisfactory reports have been received, remedial measures have been taken and check samples taken later have shown the supply to be satisfactory. In instances where unsatisfactory reports have come from vessels, the fresh water tanks have been cleaned out and in some instances the fresh water systems thoroughly overhauled, with satisfactory results in all cases.

SECTION VI

Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966

No change.

SECTION VII

Smallpox

1. The Northern Regional Hospitals Board have made arrangements for the admission of Smallpox cases to the Langley Park Isolation Hospital, Co. Durham (Telephone No.: Chester-le-Street 3207). The Doctor in Charge of the hospital will be Dr. Gavin Millar, of Green Ridge, Farnley Mount, Durham. His telephone No. is 2395.

2. The Northumberland County Council are responsible for the ambulance service. Dr. A. Donaldson, the Medical Officer for the Blyth and Bedlington Local Authorities, is responsible for the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

3. NAME OF SMALLPOX CONSULTANT AVAILABLE:-

Dr. Wilson Minns,
South Rigg, Hunshaugh,
Hexham.
Home Telephone No.:
Humshaugh 317.

4. FACILITIES FOR LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF SMALLPOX. Laboratory facilities are provided at the General Hospital, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, 4.

SECTION VIII

Venereal Disease

No change.

SECTION IX

Cases of notifiable and other Infectious Diseases on ships.

Table D

Category	Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Ships concerned
		Passenger	Crew	
Cases landed from ships from Foreign Ports	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from Foreign Ports, but have been disposed of before arrival	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases landed from other ships	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION X

Observation on the occurrence of Malaria in Ships

No cases of Malaria have been reported during the year.

SECTION XI

Measures taken against Ships infected with or suspected of Plague

Inquiries as to the prevalence of rats are made on all ships in Port (whether in possession of Deratting Certificates or Deratting Exemption Certificates or not) and a systematic inspection is carried out on all ships arriving directly or otherwise from foreign ports.

A systematic search for evidence of infestation is carried out on all vessels.

SECTION XII

Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1. On arrival at the Port vessels are examined and if there is any evidence of rats notice is at once served on the Master. The Port Health Authority have their own official Rodent Operator. Particular attention is given to vessels arriving directly or indirectly from infected areas.

2. Rats when caught are examined and facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for detailed bacteriological examination of any specimens when necessary.

3. For some years now there has been no instance of a major infestation of rats on any vessel to the extent of requiring wholesale fumigation. If any such instance occurred, the shipping agents would arrange for the fumigation to be carried out by one of the approved firms mentioned below. The whole process would be supervised by Officer of the Authority.

In the case of fumigation by Hydrogen Cyanide or Methyl Bromide, strict precautions have to be observed to safeguard all the persons involved and the whole process carried out in accordance with the Regulations.

Contractors approved for the carrying out of the above services in this Port are:-

Messrs. Contra Pest Services Ltd.,
Rekendyke Lane,
South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 63388.

Messrs. Rentokil Laboratories Ltd.,
6 Regent Street,
South Shields.

Tel. No.: South Shields 4921.

4. In the construction of modern vessels considerable progress has been made in the provision of rat-proof compartments. Bulkheads and partitions are usually steel, and with the minimum of timber, it is difficult for rodents to find harbourage. Modern Naval Architecture is coping with the problem satisfactorily.

Table E

Rodents destroyed during the year in Ships from Foreign Ports

Category	Number
Black Rats	-
Brown Rats	-
Species not known	-
Sent for examination	-
Infected with Plague	-

The total number of brown rats recovered from the Quayside after poison baits have been put down was 309.

All rats recovered are examined and where any abnormalities are noted are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, for further detailed examination.

Table F

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1969 for Ships from Foreign Ports

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
After Fumigation with		After Trapping	After Poisoning	Total		
HCN	Other Fumigant (state method)					
-	-	-	-	-	18	18

Deratting Certificates and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year 1969

Net Tonnage	No. of Ships	No. of Deratting Certificates issued				Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Certificates issued Total
		After Fumigation with			After Trapping, Poisoning, etc.		
		HCN	Sulphur	HCN AND Sulphur			
Ships up to 300 tons	12	-	-	-	-	12	12
Ships from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	19	-	-	-	-	19	19
Ships from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons ..	11	-	-	-	-	11	11
Ships from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ships over 10,000 tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	42	-	-	-	-	42	42

SECTION XIII

Inspection of Ships for Nuisances

Table G

Inspection and Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of Serving Notices
		Statutory	Other	
Routine Inspections	S/S 163	Nil	54	Defects remedied
Do.	M/V 1,087	Do.	116	Do.
Do.	F/V 108	Do.	-	Do.
Total	1,358	Do.	170	-

SECTION XIV

Public Health (Shell-fish Regulations) 1934 and 1948

The area covered by the Order is:-

The area of the River Blyth lying between the High Water marks on either side of the River and extending from the mouth of the River to a point where the Railway Bridge of the British Railways crosses the River.

During the early summer notification was received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that samples of mussels taken from the Harbour Area had been found to be effected with Dinoflagellates in excess of the permitted standards. In view of the possible dangers of food poisoning caused by this organism, it was felt that a more severe cautionery notice advising the public to refrain from the consumption of Shellfish should be posted up in addition to the notices already displayed under the Shellfish Order. It would seem that the tidal flow of the organisms may become an annual event which will necessitate constant vigilence in this respect.

SECTION XV

Medical Inspection of Aliens

This is not an approved Port for the landing or inspection of Aliens.

The number of Aliens who arrived at the Port was 61 (see Table C, Section III).

SECTION XVI

Miscellaneous

Mortuary - No change.

Food Inspection -

The only food imports requiring inspection and supervision were the 2,663 tons of potatoes from Cyprus. Throughout the discharging of the cargo observation was kept for any possible infestation by pests.

NATIONALITIES OF SHIPS

British	1,052
Danish	6
Dutch	68
Faeroes	10
Finnish	11
German	60
Liberian	1
Norwegian	13
Panamanian	3
Swedish	26
TOTAL	1,250

FISHING VESSELS

British	74
Dutch	27
Polish	7
TOTAL	108
GRAND TOTAL FOR THE YEAR	1,358

VESSELS BOARDED

The following table gives a list of vessels boarded during the year by the Medical Officer of Health or Public Health Inspector on account of disease on board during the voyage or whilst in Port.

All cases set out below received attention and treatment.

Date 1969	Name of Vessels and Nationality	Where from	Rating	Sickness
Jan.				
2nd	M.V. Lux (German)	Wisbech	Master	Mental Breakdown
8th	S.S. Oliver Bury (British)	London	2 Firemen	Influenza
15th	M.V. Daniel M (British)	London	Seaman	Injury to Hand
27th	M.V. Yewmount (British)	Rouen	2nd Eng.	Gastric Influenza
Feb.				
11th	M.V. Charlotte (German)	Grangemouth	Seaman	Dental Abscess
March 4th	M.V. Ferryhill (British)	Aberdeen	Engineer) 2 Seamen)	Influenza
7th	M.V. Windser Queen (British)	Shoreham	2nd Off.) Steward) 2 Seamen)	Influenza
21st	M.V. Corbrae (British)	Dordrecht	Ch. Off.	Septic Infection of Arm
Apr.				
16th	M.V. Dina (Dutch)	Rotterdam	Seaman	V.D.
21st	M.V. Corbeach (British)	Rochester	2 Seamen	Scabies
May				
1st	M.V. Corchester (British)	London	Seaman	Septic Arm
24th	M.V. Heather (Panamanian)	Invergordon	Seaman	Injury to Hand
June				
18th	M.V. Tannenberg (German)	Mantyluoto	Seaman	Injury to Leg
July 26th	W.L.A. 152 (Polish)	Sea	Master 2 Seamen)	Injuries and Severe Bruising
Aug. 8th	M.V. Greenland (British)	Grangemouth	2nd Off.	Heart Attack and Injury to Head
Sep.				
25th	M.V. Blackthorn (British)	Londonderry	2nd Eng.	Injury to Leg
Oct.				
15th	M.V. Arabritt (Swedish)	Rotterdam	Seaman	V.D.
Nov.				
4th	M.V. Corchester (British)	London	Master	Injury to Back
5th	S.S. Hudson River (British)	London	Donkeyman	Injury to Hand
			Seaman	Injury to Head
30th	M.V. Corchester (British)	London	Seaman	Mental Breakdown
24th	M.V. Orehoved (German)	Rotterdam	Seaman	Accident to Leg
Dec.				
15th	M.V. St. William (British)	Tyne	Cook	Injury to Hand
24th	M.V. Pulborough (British)	London	2nd Off.) 2 Seamen)	Influenza
24th	M.V. Blackthorn (British)	Londonderry	2nd Eng.	Influenza

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951

Fifteen Rodent Control Cerrtificates were issued during the year.

VESSELS FOUND HAVING STRUCTURAL OR SANITARY DEFECTS

	Structural Defects		Sanitary Defects		
	Foreign	Coastwise	Foreign	Coastwise	Total
British Steam	-	6	5	43	54
British Motor	-	23	4	72	99
British Sail	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Steam	-	-	-	-	-
Foreign Motor	3	-	12	2	17
Foreign Sail	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS:	3	29	21	117	170

It was not found necessary to carry out any disinfestations of Crews' quarters on vessels during the year.

DEFECTS

	Work in Hand	Work Completed	Total
Fresh water tanks cleaned and cement washed	-	13	13
Fresh water systems repaired or cleaned out	-	7	7
Salt in fresh water system rectified	-	1	1
Fresh water pump repaired	-	1	1
Sanitary tanks repaired or renewed	-	1	1
Sanitary pipes repaired or renewed	-	3	3
Sanitary pump repaired or renewed	-	1	1
Sanitary systems repaired	-	4	4
W.C.'s discharging on to quay	-	6	6
W.C.'s repaired or renewed	-	6	6
Oil discharge	-	1	1
Wash hand basins repaired or renewed	-	4	4
Showers repaired or renewed	-	6	6
Central heating systems repaired	-	7	7
Crews' accommodation cleaned and painted	-	9	9
Officers' accommodation cleaned and painted	-	6	6
Leaking accommodation remedied	-	2	2
Galleys cleaned and painted out	-	9	9
Galley stoves repaired or renewed	-	7	7
Galley equipment repaired or renewed	-	2	2
Galley benches renewed	-	2	2
Additional ventilation provided to galley	-	1	1
Chopping block resurfaced	-	1	1
Refrigerators cleaned out or repaired	-	11	11
Refrigerated store relined	-	1	1
Food stores cleaned out	-	8	8
Carried Forward	-	120	120

	Work in Hand	Work Completed	Total
Brought Forward	-	120	120
Scupper pipes cleared	-	7	7
Port lights repaired or renewed	-	29	29
Refuse deposited on to quay	-	10	10
Smoke emissions	-	1	1
Ventilating systems repaired or renewed	-	3	3
TOTAL	-	170	170

VESSELS ARRIVING FROM INFECTED OR SUSPECTED PORTS

The following table gives the number of vessels boarded in Blyth by the Officers of the Port Health Authority, on account of them coming directly or indirectly from Foreign Ports, infected or suspected or being infected with, Cholera, Plague, Yellow Fever, Typhus Fever or Relapsing Fever.

1969	From Infected Ports to Blyth		From Suspected Ports to Blyth		Total
	Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect	
January	-	-	-	-	-
February	-	-	-	-	-
March	-	-	-	-	-
April	-	-	-	-	-
May	-	-	-	-	-
June	-	-	-	-	-
July	-	-	-	-	-
August	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	-	-	-	-	-

FOOD INSPECTION

The principal Acts of Parliament and the Regulation affecting the work of the Authority are:-

Local Government Act, 1933.
Public Health Act, 1936.
Public Health Officers (Port Health Districts) Regulations, 1959.
Merchant Shipping (Crew Accommodation) Regulations, 1953.
Dangerous Drugs Regulations, 1964.
Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.
Preservatives in Food Regulations, 1962.
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 - 1952.
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.
Antioxidant in Food Regulations, 1958 - 1966.
Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960 - 1961.
Food Hygiene (Docks, Carriers, etc.) Regulations, 1960.
Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957 - 1966.
Arsenic in Food Regulations, 1959 - 1960.
Fluorine in Food Regulations, 1959.
Labelling of Food Order, 1953.
Lead in Food Regulations, 1961.
Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963.
Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food Regulations, 1963 - 1966.
Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966 - 1968.
Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1953.
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 and 1954.
Poison Rules, 1960.
Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Ships) Regulations, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951.
Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) (Amendment No. 2) Order, 1956.
The Poisons (Fluoroacetamide and Fluoroacetanilide) Rules, 1964.
Clean Air Act, 1956.
Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) (Vessels) Regulations, 1958.
Meat (Sterilization) Regulations, 1969.